FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1986

Lebanon-Israel

Israeli warplanes attacked Fatah targets southeast of Sidon 27 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the raids were directed against a Fatah headquarters in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camp and against a nearby training base. An AFP report cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said 20 people were killed or injured in the raids.

Four Israelis were slightly injured the same morning when katyushas were fired across Israel's northern border at Qiryat Shemona, Jerusalem radio disclosed, citing the IDF spokesman. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that Israel will take action to prevent such incidents from recurring, IDF radio noted

Further Reaction to U.S.-Libyan Clash

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received visiting Maltese Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonneci 26 March, Tripoli television reported, adding that their talks focused on Malta's initiative to convene the UN Security Council to examine the U.S. "aggression." Meanwhile, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio called for the entire Arab nation to be transformed into "suicide squads and human bombs" directed against U.S. "terrorist embassies and interests wherever they may be." The radio also broadcast a support message to Al-Qadhdhafi from the "interim command" of the Palestinian Liberation Front, which announced that it is waiting for "commands" from the Libyan leader. Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt told Al-Qadhdhafi in a cable reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that PSP forces are ready to join the suicide squads and participate in strikes on U.S. interests.

In other Arab reaction, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat confirmed the PLO's support for Libya "without hesitations or reservations," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. A Kuwaiti official spokesman cited by KUNA condemned the U.S. attacks on Libyan positions. Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba expressed "deep concern" over the U.S.-Libyan clash, Tunis radio reported, and he called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. A Greek Government spokesman likewise expressed Greece's desire for a peaceful solution to the Gulf of Sidra dispute, according to Athens radio, adding that "the agreement on the U.S. bases in our country prohibits the use of these bases for military purposes in the dispute with Libya."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided an "extremely important" railway bridge northeast of Dezful 27 March, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. Iraqi warplanes also hit maritime targets in the Gulf 26 and 27 March, according to military statements carried by Voice of the Masses radio. As for claims of aircraft losses, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA asserted that an Iranian F-4 was downed over the southern front 27 March, while IRNA stated that an Iraqi jet was shot down by Iranian air defenses in the northern sector 26 March.

Israel-Egypt

Israel and Egypt held another round of Taba talks in Herzliyya 26 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the two delegations are making an "intensive effort" to resolve the remaining substantive issues. In an interview with IDF radio, Foreign Minister Shamir claimed that Israel has shown "great willingness to meet the Egyptian requests halfway" but that Egypt's "tough stand" has prevented progress at the talks.

Sudan-Ethiopia

Allegations that Ethiopian planes have flown into southern Sudan with munitions and supplies for Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces are unfounded, an SPLA spokesman announced in a statement reported by the clandestine SPLA radio. Meanwhile, SPLA leader Colonel John Garang reiterated his movement's rejection of Sudanese Government plans to begin holding elections in parts of southern Sudan in April, according to an *AL-SAHAFAH* report cited by SUNA. Garang said the SPLA will fight against any government resulting from such "partial" elections.

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U.S. Commits 'Unprovoked Piratic Invasion' of Libya
LD270625 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 26, BAKHTAR — A political commentator of BAKHTAR writes:

The USA, which has accepted state institutionalised terrorism as its official policy, conducted an armed aggression against the People's Republic of Libya on March 14, 1986.

The unprovoked piratic invasion carried out by the USA against Libyan vessels and rocket launching centres of that country at the behest of the White House is indicative of the fact that the Reagan administration subjects to brutal attacks any nation which assumes an independent and anti-imperialistic policy.

The rulers of the White House have time and again vociferated the myth of the danger of Libya which is located at a distance of thousands of kilometers from that country. This fiction has also been vociferated by the Washington administration in connection with Nicaragua.

It is an established fact that Washington has organised the attack on Libya in accordance with its neo-global policy to the effect that it should embark upon any kind of heinous action for attaining its objectives.

The terroristic invasion of the Armed Forces of the Washington administration has evoked international indignation. A group of Italian parliament members, Social Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and members of the U.S. Congress as well as other countries of the world evaluated the invasion of the Armed Forces of the USA against Libya as an irresponsible and terroristic action and condemned it.

The prime minister of Israel has flagrantly stated that the USA is entitled to preserve the freedom of navigation in the oceans in any part of the world. That is, as if the USA is entitled to stage state terrorism in any part of the world.

The world public have well realised that the Reagan administration has put world peace on great stake and it is the conductor of regional conflicts in the world.

Who can believe that the Reagan administration would not attack another country another day under some other false pretext for its aggression.

Since the Reagan administration has conducted an unwarranted terroristic aggression against Libya, it should respond to the world public opinion for its crime.

Opposition Groups Announce Antielection Stands
HK250956 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 25 (AFP) — At least four components of Bangladesh's largest opposition alliance issued anti-election stands Tuesday, against a decision by the alliance leader to take part in rescheduled parliamentary polls.

Leaders of four components of the 15-party alliance — the Workers Party, the Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal (SKSD) and two factions of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh — said they had broken with the Awami League on the issue.

The Awami League Monday said it supported the May 7 polls.

The split occurred at a meeting of the alliance late Monday at the residence of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, alliance chief and Awami League leader.

A fifth component, the Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), also differed with the Awami League, did not attend the meeting and was likely to boycott the election, sources said.

Sheikh Hasina told reporters that leaders of the component parties were scheduled to discuss the issue again Tuesday, but SKSD leader Nirmal Sen ruled out his party's participation in any further meetings.

"We don't see any justification to come to the meetings again," he said.

The fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami Party, an opposition group that operates individually, decided to participate in the polls at a meeting Monday, but newspapers here Tuesday reported significant anti-election pressure during the meeting from workers and cadres, particularly from students.

Jamiat said it decided to join the polls to avoid confrontation with the military regime and to boost the movement towards the restoration of democracy.

The other major opposition alliance, a seven-party alliance led by Begum Khalida Zia, is to decide at a meeting Thursday.

Military ruler Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who came to power in a bloodless coup and dissolved the assembly in 1982 and named himself president the next year, Friday announced the polls set for April 26 would be moved to May 7.

He also offered a package of concessions to the opposition, which has opposed any polls held under martial law. Polls have been set and postponed thrice in the face of an opposition boycott.

Lieutenant General Ershad has taken steps toward disbanding martial law offices and courts, and dropped 18 full ministers, one adviser, five ministers of state, and three deputy ministers — most of them from the government backed National Party. The cabinet now stands with nine full ministers.

Sources said this was a bid to prove the administration's neutrality.

Emergency Meeting of Punjab Cabinet Called
BK261629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] At Anandpur in Punjab 5 persons were killed and 18 injured today when police opened fire to control an unruly mob indulging in brickbatting, arson, and throwing of incendiary bombs. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, police resorted to firing after a lathi [baton] charge, lobbing of tear gas shells, and firing of plastic bullets failed to control the mob. Some persons from the mob also indulged in firing.

The spokesman said the trouble started when the activists of the All India Sikh Students Federation and Damdami Taksal [Sikh fundamentalist religious school] tried to capture the stage set up by the Akali Dal on the occasion of Holla Mohalla [religious festival]. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, had just finished addressing the congregation, and some of his ministerial colleagues also had spoken. About a dozen police personnel were injured in the incident. The adminsitration has clamped curfew in the town as a precautionary measure till Friday [28 March] morning.

Mr Barnala has convened an emergency meeting of the state cabinet tomorrow morning in Chandigarh to review the law-and-order situation in the state. He said the state government is determined to put down with a firm hand the activities of antisocial and antinational elements who are indulging in these activities on behalf of a foreign power.

Mr Barnala has also called a meeting of the working committee of the Akali Dal in Chandigarh tomorrow afternoon. Mr Barnala, who is president of the Akali Dal, condemned the attempt by the unruly mob to violate the sanctity of the Holla Mohalla congregation. In a statement, he said the congregation is being held strictly in accordance with the traditions started by the 10th Sikh guru — Guru Govind Singh. He said the disruptive elements carrying lethal weapons attacked the diwan [religious seat] and indulged in violence.

The situation in Jullundur and Nakodar continues to be under control. Curfew in both the cities has been extended up to 1100 [0530 GMT] till Friday. Curfew in the old city was relaxed today for 2 hours from 1400. The additional areas placed under curfew on Monday were, however, not given any relaxation today. The relaxation period passed off peacefully. Indefinite curfew also continues in village (Hadipur) in Hoshiarpur district.

Akali Dal Office in Golden Temple Attacked
BK270909 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, the situation in the curfew-bound town of Anandpur Saheb which witnessed some violent incidents yesterday is officially stated to be fully under control. The curfew imposed since yesterday afternoon will continue till 0800 tomorrow. As already reported, the Punjab cabinet is holding an emergency meeting in Chandigarh. The state chief minister, who is the president of the Akali Dal, has also summoned the meeting of the working committee of the party.

The death toll in yesterday's incidents at Anandpur Saheb has gone up to 7 with two more persons succumbing to their injuries. Twenty-nine people including 11 policemen were injured in the incident. An official spokesman clarified that the All India Sikh Students Federation and the Damdami Taksal [Sikh fundamentalist religious school] activists have been inciting the people against the government at the diwan at Anandpur Saheb for the last 3 days. The spokesman said at about 1400 yesterday these activists armed with swords, spears, and firearms surged toward the diwan organized by the Akali Dal. Some of them indulged in firing. He said the mob was declared an unlawful assembly on the public address system and efforts to control them through persuasions, lathi charge, and lobbing of teargas shells failed. The spokesman said in view of the grave and imminent danger to life and property, including those of VIP's and the general public, the police resorted to firing to control the situation.

The CPI leader and the former member of legislative assembly, Mr Arjun Singh Mastana, and his gunman Constable Kamaljit Singh, were shot dead by suspected terrorists at his village Gariala in Amritsar District early this morning. The victims were in their house when they were attacked.

In Amritsar this morning, the activists of the All India Sikh Students Federation attacked and occupied the head office of the Akali Dal located in a building adjacent to the Golden Temple complex. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that they later set the office on fire. Senior civil and police officials rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control.

In Muktsar, with the improvement in the situation an 8-hour relaxation has been given in the curfew from 0900 this morning. In Jullundur, the curfew was relaxed from 0700 this morning in the old city area. In other parts of the city and Nakodar, it has been extended up to 1100 tomorrow. Indefinite curfew continued in Hajipur village of Hoshiarpur District. However, the situation at all these places is under control.

The CPI-M has expressed shock at the murder of the CPI leader Mr Mustana and his gunman. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the politburo of the party said the activities of the extremists are posing a serious threat to national unity.

6 Killed, 10 Injured Near Pilibhit; Curfew Imposed
BK270315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] According to UNI, six persons were killed and ten others injured in a clash between two groups in (Nooriya), about 15 km from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. Police sources in Lucknow said this morning that the situation is under control following the imposition of indefinite curfew in the area. They said round-the-clock patrolling in Pilibhit town besides (Nooriya) is going on as a precautionary measure.

Junejo Views Talks With Opposition, Gandhi Visit

BK161552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival in Sukkur from Islamabad today, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said his government has given complete freedom to the opposition to function and present its viewponts before the people. The government has never considered the opposition political parties as a challenge, because the government's party itself is quite strong. However, he added that if the opposition considers it necessary, the government's doors are open for dialogue.

About the proposed visit of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister said he recently met with him in Stockholm. The Indian prime minister wants a prepared agenda for the talks. This agenda will be prepared at the ministrial meeting which will also consider it. [sentence as heard]

About Indian protests about Pakistan's nuclear policy, the prime minsiter said everybody is aware of Pakistan's stand on this matter.

Demonstration Against U.S. Fleet in Karachi Held

GF261405 Lahore JANG in Urdu 19 Mar 86 p 1, 7

[Text] Karachi (*JANG* correspondent) — To protest the U.S. naval presence in Karachi a demonstration was held Monday evening in the cantonment area between Regal Square and the Empress Market. The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing the U.S. naval unit. They burned an effigy of President Reagan and a U.S. flag. In addition to the leftist political parties, students, and workers of the toilers organizations, a group of Shi'ites also took part in these demonstrations.

As the demonstrators dispersed peacefully, the police made a baton charge against the Islamic Unification Movement Group led by Mirza Yusaf Hussain, the leader of the Shi'ite religious jurisprudence implementation movement. As soon as Mirza Yusaf Hissain concluded his speech, the police launched the charge. This caused confusion among the demonstrators. However, calm was restored 10 minutes after the police action. During the demonstrations hot words were exchanged between the members of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and other parties taking part in the demonstrations. At times there were scuffles between them. Members of other parties strongly opposed the PPP hoisting its flag.

Yusaf Masti, Central Committee chief of the Pakistan National Party [PNP], said: At the instigation of the U.S. agent, the shahanshah of Iran, Baluchistan was invaded in 1972-77. Now again the United States has brought its fleet to put pressure on Iran. If the U.S. naval unit is here to safeguard American interests, they should know that this unit will be drowned here.

Another leader Iqbal Haidar addressed the demonstrators. He said: We may die hungry, but we will not feed ourselves with the crumbs of the colonialists. If the colonial force visits Pakistan on pleasure trips, Pakistanis should drown themselves in shame. Pakistan will not be converted into a barroom. Where was the U.S. fleet when Pakistan was having difficulties in 1971? The motive of the American fleet to Pakistan is not merely to pass their time in frivolous amusement. They have come to inspect their bases for possible use by their Rapid Deployment Force. This naval presence also adversely affects the neutral status of Pakistan in the Iran-Iraq war. This visit of the U.S. naval unit is a threat to Iran.

Khalil Qoreshi, local chief of the Pakistan People's Party, said: We will not allow the colonialists to step into Pakistan. The Lebanese have thrown the Americans out of their territory. The American colonialists want to defeat the Afghan revolution and the Afghan agents of the American colonialists are trafficking in heroin in Pakistan.

M. Qaisarani, local chief of the Pakistan National Party, said: We, the workers, will be in the forefront of the confrontation with the colonialists.

Li Xiannian To Make Stopover Visit 27 March

BK251545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] President Li Xiannian will arrive in Karachi on Thursday [27 March] on a brief stopover on his way back to Beijing from Madagascar. The Chinese president, who will be leaving Karachi for China on Friday morning, is going back home after his official visit to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Somalia, and Madagascar.

SRI LANKA

Training Plane Crashes; Separatists Attacks Noted

BK260710 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 26 (AFP) — A ground attack plane crashed during a training exercise Tuesday, killing the pilot and trainee pilot, and three soldiers and five civilians died in clashes between security forces and militant Tamil separatists, official sources said.

Militant separatists on Tuesday also blew up a culvert ahead of the main passenger train from the northern capital Jaffna, the sources said.

The sources said the two-million dollar Siai Marchetti ground attack plane plunged into the sea at Beruwela, 53 kilometers (33 miles) south of here, during training exercises, killing the pilot and trainee pilot. The bodies of the two men were recovered from the submerged plane by life guards from a nearby tourist hotel, residents there said.

The plane was one of six Marchettis bought by the government recently to train pilots and to carry out bombing missions against militant Tamil separatists campaigning for an independent state in the north and east.

In the northeastern Trincomalee district, meanwhile, three soldiers died and three others were wounded Tuesday when the armoured car in which they wece travelling was blown up by a landmine set by Tamil separatists, official sources said.

Further southwest in the Vavuniya area, five policemen were wounded Tuesday when their vehicle was blasted with a landmine on the Vavuniya-Medawachiya road, the sources said. The police opened fire after coming under attack and in the crossfire five civilians were killed, the sources said.

In another incident Tuesday, militants blew up a culvert ahead of the main train from Jaffna for the second time in 15 days, railway officials said.

After the culvert near Omanthai in the northern district was blown up, the train pulled to a stop and armed militants drove away the passengers.

The militants then blew up some of the coaches with explosives, causing several million rupees worth of damage, the officials said. Informed sources said the attack was believed to be the work of the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA), a small militant group which is also said to be responsible for the earlier attack on the train.

Meanwhile, reliable sources said there was no truth in a report Tuesday from Madras, in southern India, that the Sri Lankan Government was trying to reach an accord with Tamil groups without Indian involvement and that talks were likely to begin in Bangkok on Sunday.

The sources said the government had no hand in any talks between various groups that might be on the cards.

The government would welcome any kind of talks that will ease tensions and bring about better understanding. But it has nothing to do with it, the source said.

Meanwhile, a leading member of the Batticaloa citizens committee in the eastern province denied reports Tuesday that Moslems had executed nine Tamils they abducted after clashes between the two communities earlier in the week.

SUN Urges India To Continue Mediation Efforts

BK250759 Colombo SUN in English 14 Mar 86 P 7

[Editorial: "Hopes for Peace"]

[Text] Amidst obvious indications that Indo-Lanka ties are taking another deep plunge the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has called on Sri Lanka to talk to the Tamil groups directly with a view to solving the ethnic imbroglio and leave New Delhi out of the tortuous peace efforts.

Coming close on the heels of the recent outburst against Sri Lanka in the Indian Rajya Sabha by the Indian Foreign Minister B.R. Bhagat, who happened to discern 'elements of genocide' in the current turbulence occurring in the Tamil-dominated areas of the north and east of Sri Lanka, these pronouncements by the Indian Premier point to a new toughness in New Delhi's attitude towards the Lankan problem.

In an apparent effort to downgrade India's role as honest broker in Lanka's ethnic conflict, the Indian prime minister is reported to have told the *TELEGRAPH* newspaper that New Delhi didn't want Sri Lanka to talk to it any more. Instead it called on Colombo to approach the Tamil groups directly.

This is a very unfortunate development, to say the least. India has been, thus far, playing a very laudable role in bringing together the various parties to the conflict in an effort to evolving a just and equitable settlement to the vexed ethnic issue. As a dominant power in the region it has recognised the necessily of maintaining peace in South Asia by preventing the bifurcation of states. Peace within, the boundaries of individual states is an essential pre-condition for stability in the region.

Having patiently borne with us this far, it is most unfortunatc that India should decide at this crucial juncture to curtail its mediatory efforts. It is true that all efforts at negotiating a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict have been painfully slow. But there is no cause for disillusionment or disenchantment. Sri Lanka has shown, in no uncertain terms, that it attaches top priority to a negotiated settlement. President J.R. Jayewardene's recent invitation to Indian trouble-shooter Romesh Bhandari, to renew his shuttle diplomacy is a clear indication of Lanka's motives.

What we all ought to guard against at this moment is a mood of hopelessness. Peace will no doubt be slow in coming because the aspirations of both the majority and minority communities in Lanka have to be satisfied. Hope and optimism in the hearts and minds of all parties including India could go a long way in realising this elusive peace.

Additional Reports on Libyan-U.S. Conflict

Supreme Court Chief Sends Message

LD261220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in the wake of the U.S. fleet's aggression against the Libyan coastal region, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Court, has addressed a message to the officials and people of the fraternal state of Libya. The message, referring to naked aggression as the ugliest feature of imperialism, says: It is incumbent upon all the world's free governments and nations, the region's nations in particular, to condemn and castigate the aggressor in the strongest possible terms and to prevent the superpowers from not recognizing any bounds or limits just because of their power.

In his message, the president of the Supreme Court condemned this naked aggression and addressed the officials and people of the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He said: The Iranian Muslim and revolutionary nation, which regards it as its duty to continue the war against international arrogance until sedition is eliminated in the world, deems it its duty in these historic moments to stand by the Muslim Libyan people so as to fulfill its humane and Islamic duty.

SAIRI Denounces U.S. 'Aggression'

LD261941 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Following the U.S. military aggression against Libya, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq issued a statement. The statement reads in part:

The crushing blows dealt by Islam's troops on the battlefronts and by the self-sacrificing Iraqi mujahidin inside Iraq are about to bring down the shakey foundations of the pro-U.S. Baghdad government and Arab reaction is in collaboration with the arch-Satan, the United States. In these times the United States, the sworn foe of Islam, has embarked on plots against the Islamic nation in order to harm it with the weapon of oil and thereby plunder its oil and has assaulted a corner of the great Islamic homeland, the territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the Gulf of Sidra. These actions have again proved its animosity toward the Islamic world!

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq strongly denounces this aggressive U.S. action which is an attempt to make up for its fiascos in Iran and Lebanon and a move toward preventing the fall of its hirelings in Baghdad, Cairo, and Oman. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iraq hereby proclaims that any aggression against the sanctity of the Islamic countries shall bring nothing but defeat and at this time, too, the heroic Muslim nation of Libya, armed with firm resolution and solid faith, shall impose the bitter taste of defeat on the ramshackle U.S. superpower!

Velayati, USSR Envoy Discuss Libya, U.S., Relations

LD271046 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 27, Tehran — The Soviet Union ambassador to Tehran, V.K. Boldyrev, in a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday, explained stance of his government towards recent U.S. aggression against Libya.

He also urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to make efforts and cooperate for the establishment of peace in southern Mediterranean. The Soviet diplomat also called on Iran to support the Soviet efforts in the emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Boldyrev expressed concern of his country over restrictions created for the Soviet diplomats by the U.S. Administration in the United Nations. He hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran will take measures against such expansionist policies.

Velayati said that Iran held a similar view on the U.S. aggression against Libya and the Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly condemned the U.S. action and calls for an all-out support for Libya.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he told the Soviet diplomat, will do whatever possible to protect independence and national sovereignty of Libya.

As for the U.S. restrictions on certain countries in the United Nations, he said that U.S. has exerted such pressures on Iran in post-revolutionary period. Iran, he added, protests against any pressure or influence of any country in the United Nations and has voiced its opposition in this respect.

During the meeting expansion of bi-lateral relations in all fields were discussed.

Total 'Mobilization' of Resources for War Announced

LD261222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] During today's Cabinet session, the prime minister announced that the question of the war will be given top priority in the government agenda this year. This year all facilities should be placed at the disposal of the war. For this reason, war support committees at ministries should be strengthened. A circular will be issued to all organizations regarding the mobilization of all resources.

Referring to the coordination between the government, the people, and the Majlis, the prime minister called it one of the current Cabinet's means of success.

He also announced that committed and Hezbollahi forces and Islamic societies would be strengthened as part of government policies. He expressed the hope that in the current year the government would be able to give more attention to these valuable forces.

After the Cabinet session, in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, Prime Minister Musavi described as excellent the conditions on the fronts and the morale of the combatants of Islam in the fight against the Ba'thist pagans. He called the imam's message about the all-round presence of the people on the fronts an outstanding help to the combatants of Islam. He said that the government is helping to increase the strength of the combatants through a general mobilization.

Regarding Iran's aid to Libya in face of the recent U.S. attacks on that country, the prime minister said that the struggle against imperialism is extensive and worldwide. Naturally, whenever Islam and Islamic countries are threatened, these weapons [as heard] are used appropriately, since all Islamic countries should stand agaisnt America. At present, Libya is doing that in the Gulf of Sidra. Therefore, we support it.

The prime minister described the reason for the decrease in the volume of trade between Turkey and Iraq as the bankrupcy of the Baghdad regime. He said that Iraq's request for the deferment of its debts to Turkey is a sign of the poor economic situation in that country.

He finally said that the support of the Arab League for Iraq and condemnation of Iran by that league for the presence of Iranian forces in Iraq is a sign of the pro-U.S. leanings of the league in view of the Libyan situation and the recent provocations.

Majlis Speaker Comments on Need for Military Training
LD261843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, yesterday visited those wounded during the imposed war and who are hospitalized in Tehran's Torfeh hospital. The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council was accompanied on his visit to these dear combatants by the under secretary of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Training, the head of the hospital, and other officials. Every department of the hospital explained their work to the visitors. During the visit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for the selflessness and sacrifices of these intrepid combatants.

At the end of his visit to the wounded in the imposed war, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council gave an interview to our correspondent. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In his gracious behests his holiness the imam referred to new dimensions and prospects, particularly in connection with the war, the dispatch of forces, and also emphasis on defense until victory. As his holiness's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, what is your opinion?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I thought his holiness's remarks were so serious that for a moment I thought of leaving the Majlis for the battlefront in order to carry out any duties. He was unequivocal and quite clear. To begin with, when his holiness speaks in this way he must know certain things which we undoubtedly do not know. His holiness must have in mind more important problems, such as how to complete the victory and that people should go to the fronts. He remonstrated with those very few people who could be found here and there and who grumble sometimes. He graciously commanded that we should go to the fronts. So a new (?issue) arose for us: The responsible leaders of the Basij, the corps, and government organizations are now duty-bound to make greater efforts than in the past in order to secure the training and dispatching of forces.

Following his latest speech, the readiness of the corps, the Basij, the government, the army, and the rest of the Armed Forces for training and dispatching has been increased. Those who are capable of bearing arms should, as a rule, be ready. Of course, as far as I know this is an appropriate step since if we make proper use of this victory we have achieved, we will be able to finish the war properly. But if we allow the enemy to prepare himself again, the conclusion of the war might take longer. And this obedient servant, as one who is to a certain extent competent in problems of war, in the Supreme Defense Council and in other war problems, therefore thinks that the guideline was quite timely and therefore new conditions should be brought about.

[Correspondent] Thank you!

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I wish you success! [End recording]

Oil Minister Comments on Results of OPEC Talks
LD262002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] In an interview with local and foreign reporters this afternoon, Oil Minister Aqazadeh explained the results of the recent sessions of OPEC. He said: The OPEC sessions have not ended yet and will resume in 2 weeks. He added: In these sessions, the Islamic Republic of Iran was pursuing two objectives. The first and most fundamental objective was to defend prices and in the joint meeting we had with OPEC and non-OPEC producers on defending prices, it was decided that OPEC will defend the $28 price, and will try to restore this price within a certain time.

The second objective was how to arrive at this price. From the point of view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the amount of oil flooding the market can be reduced through much reduced production, in order to bring it to a point where supply and demand can be preserved and prices can gradually move up toward $28. We proposed that production should be brought down by 3 million barrels to settle at a ceiling production of 13 million barrels, but after much discussion, the conference (?initially) had in mind a ceiling of 14 million barrels.

Then a group began to discuss the framework for working out the quotas within the 14 million barrel provision. The Venezualan oil minister was made responsible for this task, and made a proposal which was opposed by some of the participants, including the Iraqi regime's representative. For this reason, the conference was unable to reach any conclusions and it was decided that governments should consult with each other on this question. He added: We expect the countries of the Persian Gulf region to bring pressure to bear on Iraq so that it will conform to the framework

and regulations of OPEC because Iraq has not adhered to the quota OPEC allocated to it.

The reporter of the Central News Unit asked: Do you think that this pressure will take place in practice? The oil minister replied: We believe that the existing situation is not in anyone's interest. It is possible that within OPEC there may be a country which could balance its revenues with increased sales. But the primary oil producers have all suffered losses. Aqazedeh was asked to what extent he is optimistic about reaching agreement in the coming session, and he answered: We think that anyone who thinks independently can only decide that this is the solution [as heard] unless he is getting instructions from other quarters. Otherwise, today, there is no reason at all why those who have been confronted with a great reduction in the volume of revenues should close their eyes to the only existing solution, that is, decreasing production, and choose not to cast their votes on this.

Aqazadeh added: If these countries do not reach agreement, the situation will be worse than it is now. In that case, two situations would arise: First, economic problems would emerge internally for these countries, and second, the oil market would become extremely disturbed and it would not be easy or simple to control and preserve it. Of course, if this were to happen there would be need for serious resistance and the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to confront the issue through every means at its disposal. If through various meetings and through logic, no results are achieved, then the Islamic Republic might very well make other decisions in order to get out of this crisis situation.

He was asked how the reduction in Iran's oil revenues will be made up, and Aqazadeh said: Our country is a revolutionary one and it will adapt itself to every kind of circumstance. Our nation has been able to endure circumstances which have been far worse and harder than losses in revenues; we might very well count this as a blessing and a good fortune for our country since it will help us to reduce our dependency on oil. We believe that our nation, which has entered the area with such vigilance and with all its being, will remain steadfast, resistant, and selfless in the face of any movement which may have occurred by now. But I do not feel that any serious problems will arise inside our country.

Foreign Ministry Official Visits Syria, Lebanon

Meets Syria's Khaddam

LD261505 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, March 26, IRNA — Foreign Ministry director-general for political affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani met here Wednesday with Syrian vice-president for political affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

At the meeting, views were exchanged on latest developments in the region, and on topics of mutual interest and bilateral ties. The head of Islamic Republic's Embassy in Damascus Mr. Hashemi also attended the meeting.

Lavasani on Monday met and conferred with Lebanese religious and political figures in Beirut and Tripoli.

Meets Lebanese Political Figures

LD260048 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 25, IRNA — In seperate meetings with Lebanon's religious and political figures here and in Tripoli Monday and Tuesday a visiting Iranian delegation reviewed outlooks of future struggle against the Zionists and the ways and means for Lebanese Muslims to attain their social and political rights in Lebanon.

On Tuesday members of an Iranian delegation headed by the Director General for Political Affairs Department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Hoseyn Lavasani met and held talks with Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and vice chairman of the Supreme Assembly of Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslims Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din. Members of the Iranian delegation also met and reviewed the ways and means for integrating anti-Zionist forces and coordinating their struggle against the Zionists.

The Iranian delegation also met and reviewed the political situation in Lebanon and outlooks of future anti-Zionist struggle with Da'ud Da'ud a leader of the Amal Movement in Lebanon and also with a mixed representatives of Amal and the Hizballah of Lebanon.

On Monday the Iranian delegation attended a commemorative ceremony in honor of martyred Shaykh Khalil Akawi in Tripoli and expressed condolence to leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban and to the relatives of the martyred shaykh.

Kuwait Continues 'Enimical' Policies, Expells Workers

GF261723 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The Government of Kuwait, continuing its enimical policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, has expelled another 60 Iranian Muslim workers. According to a Central News Unit report, this group of Iranians, who had suffered physical and mental torture before deportation, arrived at Bushehr Port on motor launches. They have been put up at the special camp established for deportees from Kuwait.

Qom Seminary Expresses Support for Khomeyni

LD251849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Following the historic remarks by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of His Holiness Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, the Islamic Publicity Bureau of Qom Seminary has addressed a message to the imam of the nation. It says: Your spiritual children are determined, as in the past, to meticulously adhere to your eminence's guidance, and, with extensive publicity, to stand by their brothers in the Army, the Guards Corps, and the Basij forces so that, with the guidance of the dear imam and the selflessness of our martyr-nurturing nation, the cancerous root of the Ba'thist 'Aflaqi regime will be destroyed.

Ship Repair Work Begins at Dolphin Dry Dock

GF261429 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas (*KEYHAN* correspondent) — The first repair job at the Dolphin dry dock commenced with repairs to the 17,000-ton ship *Chah Bahar*.

Engineer Amini, official in charge of the Dolphin project, told our correspondent about the work of this dry dock. He said: The Dolphin dry dock is one of the largest floating dry docks in the Middle East. By exploiting Iranian workers and Iranian engineers if the Persian Gulf ship building yard, this dry dock is capable of repairing ships up to 80,000 tons, thus avoiding repair work done in foreign countries and saving the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars in foreign exchange.

He added: The first job by this dry dock has been to lift the ship *Chah Bahar*, which had been lying in water for the past 10 years. No underwater repair work had been done on it during this period.

In conclusion, he said: With the use of the dry dock's ship lifting machinery, which is being completed at present, floaters of more than 20,000 tons will be built in the country for the first time.

Kurdish Operations Against Iraq Detailed

Military Airport Destroyed

LD251221 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., March 25, IRNA — The Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries in a recent successful operation, attacked and destroyed the Pamarni military airport in Dahuk region, reliable sources said here Tuesday.

The attack has created tension in the area as a result of which all schools in the region are closed down.

Meanwhile the Iraqi Muslim Kurds in a separate attack on the headquarters of the so called Iraqi Popular Forces, the police station and the power generator of (Kari Ajam) in Dahuk, inflicted heavy damages.

The Iraqi Kurdish Muslims fighting against the Iraqi regime, in another operation last week took over the Basra-'Aqrah road, killing three Iraqi soldiers.

In another development the Iraqi Kurds last week took control of the Iraq-Turkey transit road in northern Iraq and destroyed a column of trucks loaded with goods. The Iraqi regime in retaliation bombarded the Dahuk valley and arrested more than one hundred of inhabitants of the (Sar-Tangi) village on charges of cooperation with Muslim Kurds.

Troop Bases 'Demolished'

LD261522 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Iraq's Kurdish Muslim guerrillas demolished several troops bases of government forces as well as those of the Munafiqeen Khalq Organization (MKO) in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province last week, according to informed sources.

The guerrillas also known as peshmargas shelled an Iraqi base near (Sa'id Khan), killing at least ten Ba'thist soldiers, the sources said.

In a clash between Iraqi peshmargas and munafiqeen near Karizah and (Sutah) villages of Iraq, the Kurds killed some 23 and wounded five other government soldiers, and destroyed munafiqeen's bases in Safra' and (Sutah).

The munafiqeen cooperate with Iraqi Government and use the Iraqi soil for terrorist operations against the Islamic Republic.

The sources said munafiqeen bases in the villages of Gamish, Safra', as well as Mirawah of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province were closed down by the local people.

The peshmargas also captured Ba'thist military base of Husasi in Zakhu region, according to the IRNA correspondent from Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Province.

In the operations all Iraqi soldiers in the base were killed and their equipment destroyed.

Four Iraqi helicopters and artillery guns shelled several villages in the area inflicting damage on villagers.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2421

LD261640 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Wednesday that Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs in the operational region of Al-Faw at 18:20 hours (14:50 hours GMT) Monday.

In its Communique Number 2421, the command says that at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump, one truck and over six bunkers of the Iraqi forces were set ablaze in the Western fronts Tuesday as heavy artillery fire of the Islamic forces of Iran pounded their positions.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and the Iraqi troops continued sporadically in the southern fronts raging somewhat more heavily in Al-Faw and Talayah, according to the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and one munitions dump together with several gun emplacements of theirs were demoloshed by the artillery fire of the Iranian forces.

The communique says that Iranian Muslim forces checked transport operations of Iraqi helicopters in Marivan and Panjwin and forced several enemy patrol units trying to infiltrate their

positions to flee inflicting casualties and damage on enemy patrols.

In the areas overlooking Sumar, the Islamic forces of Iran halted flight of Iraqi helicopters and opened fire on an Iraqi patrol unit killing or wounding a number of the Iraqi troops and forcing the remainder to flee, reports the Joint Staff Command.

Iranian Muslim combatants shelled some Iraqi command Jeeps in Nahr-Anbar inflicting losses on them and elsewere in Faqqeh they controlled the movement of an Iraqi armoured column.

Iraqi artillery was silenced in Jofeyr and their engineering operations including breastwork building in Halaleh were checked by Iranian forces on Tuesday, says the Joint Staff communique.

MIG-23 Downed; Al-Faw-Basra Road Bombed

LD271101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that at 0940 yesterday, an enemy MIG-23 plane was downed by the antiaircraft defense units in the "Val-Fajr-9"operational area. The broken body of its pilot was found at the side of the plane.

Reports from Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters indicate that the fast fliers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran heavily bombed enemy troop and weapons concentration points along the strategic Al-Faw-Basra road at 0830 this morning. At 0930 the courageous pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran also heavily bombed the command posts and troop concentration points along the Al-Bihar-Basra road, inflicting considerable damage and casualties on the enemy. Our planes, having completed their missions, returned unharmed to their bases.

Commentary on U.S. Efforts To 'Interfere' in Gulf

GF221818 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1430 GMT 22 Mar 86

[From the "Political Follow-Ups" program]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration was not able to conceal its concern over the victories achieved by the Islamic forces in the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations. In order to find a justification for relieving its pent-up zeal, the administration announced its desire to interfere in the interests of the Gulf countries. It used the excuse that the war between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran might expand, as if the United States is more concerned about the safety and security of the Gulf than the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is linked to the people of the region through very strong bonds and relations.

The Islamic Republic, which knows very well the meaning and dimensions of U.S. statements, has affirmed through its Foreign Ministry that U.S. threats to interfere in the region's affairs have no justification and are totally rejected. They are part of the comprehensive hostile policy of the United States against the Islamic world. While the United States might have been able to practice gunboat diplomacy against others and succeed, the Iranian people see nothing in this hostile policy but a challenge which deserves mobilization of efforts to sharpen the determination of this people to confront the U.S. Administration's attempts at hegemony.

As the Islamic Republic stands with determination before the U.S. blackmail policy, it declares and affirms that respect for all countries' right to sovereignty and noninterference in the affairs of others are two basic principles of the Islamic Republic's policy. This has been affirmed by past actions and will be affirmed by future events. The reasoning behind this policy is that, while dealing with others, both enemies and friends, the Islamic Republic resorts to the Islamic Shari'a and to its legitimate principles which are based on respecting the rights of other and which forbid violation of those rights.

The Islamic Republic — while it affirms that it harbors no ill will against any of the region's countries, or against those who do not aggress against it or cause further damage to it — firmly declares that it will not remain silent before those who do not respect its rights. It also affirms to the U.S. Administration that the Muslim Iranian people, who ridiculed U.S. threats before and after the victory of the revolution, are today more determined to confront the Americans and crush their arrogance, not because we wish to expand the war, but because we have the right to defend ourselves and the dignity of our people and holy places, which the Americans wish to violate.

As the United States announces that it is in charge of the affairs of the region's people and that it has the right of guardianship over the region's countries, the sons of the Gulf region must respond to this, because politically, this only means that the United States does not take seriously the willpower of these people and their right to self-determination and freedom to express their views and choices.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Urged To Be Practical on War

GF220609 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Mar 86

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] Brothers, despite the strategic developments which the recent Islamic victories have brought about in the southern and northern sectors of operations, some Gulf countries continue to deal with the war in an unreasonable and illogical way — as if the war developments and the Baghdad regime's defeats have not taken place. In what follows, we discuss the stands of some Gulf parties.

If another party had been confronting the Baghdad regime, it would have dealt with some Gulf countries as parties involved in the fighting and would have regarded them as an enemy participating in the war. The reason is that the wheel of the 'Aflaqi aggression has been turning with the help of Gulf petrodollars. If it has not been for these petrodollars, the wheel of aggression would have stopped a long time ago and the fighting would have

ended. However, the aid extended by these parties — particularly economic and financial aid — has been the backbone and fuel of the aggression. This has reached the extent that one can say that Saddam is fighting with the help of the dollars of these parties, which kill the two Muslim peoples in Iran and Iraq. Despite this, Islamic forbearance and patience have been so great that the desire to preserve the region's security and stability overlooked even the irresponsible policies, which on several occasions almost drove the region toward an undesirable situation threatening security and peace, and the interests of the people, which those policies did not take into consideration at all when they linked themselves to the existence and future of the Baghdad regime.

There has been no backing down in our stand or any form of tactical calculation, or any calculation of the forces of the others who know their forces better than other people do. Our stands have proceeded from the Islamic spirit and the sincere desire to guarantee the region's security and stability, in addition to its people's interests.

Even if such a sincere attitude does not lead others to review their previous stands and adopt new ones, the latest developments on the warfronts could have constituted objective reasons to make the others reconsider their stands.

Previous years of aggression have brought forth indisputable constants which prove that the ruling regime in Baghdad is unstable are not likely to continue, and that the military developments on the warfronts, combined with internal effects, will lead to that regime's fall. The "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" operations have provided new proof of those constants, especially since these operations, particularly "Val-Fajr-8" operations, have taken place in an area that is militarily, economically, and politically strategic. The Islamic forces have crossed Shatt al-'Arab and penetrated the enemy's fortifications and strategic positions. At present, the Islamic forces stand to the south of Basra, after liberating the strategic Al-Faw port.

Logic and wisdom would require some Gulf countries to alter their policies and to reconsider their previous calculations, particularly as the Islamic state continues to assert that it wants nothing except to punish the aggressor and obtain its just conditions. However, what has happened is that these parties — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia — went too far, more than they should, in dealing with the developments of the Islamic-Ba'thist war. They went to the extent of inciting the spread of the war, by involving external Arab and international parties, through talk about Arab treaties and agreements or international interests.

Some parties, particularly these countries, may imagine that brandishing this card puts pressure on the Islamic Republic, forgetting that in our calculations we take into account only the logic of justice, right, and people's interests. Such cards are a threat to those countries, more than they are a threat to or a pressure on the Islamic Republic. The spread of the war, together with the intervention of foreign powers, signifies an uncalculated development to the arrogant powers and might lead to an all-out eruption among the peoples of the region, which in turn will lead to their total emergence from the sphere of arrogant influence. Have these countries taken this into consideration, or do they believe London's or Washington's reassurances and the possibility of intervention when required? If there are serious inclinations to preserve security and peace, then that will only take place within the region, not outside it. The people are concerned with regional security. No one else has the right to intervene or come close. Talk about security and peace and the perils that threaten the region remain false talk if they are not linked to a practical stand of dealing objectively with events, developments, and the situation, and action to eliminate the hotbeds of tension, disturbances, and anxiety embodied in the existence of the Baghdad regime. Will the others deal with the fact objectively and act to restore a normal atmosphere in view of the Islamic Republic's willingness to forget the past and turn over a new leaf of relations with these parties?

Opposition Official Says Regime To End in 2 Years

JN250804 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Mar 86 pp 1,2

[By Rabab Mangu]

[Text] Amman — The Iranian national resistance movement against the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has gathered "solid basis" within and outside Iran and expects to topple the regime in the next two years, a leader of the movement said Monday.

Nader Ravingadi, deputy speaker of the Paris-based National Iranian Resistance Council, also said the movement, under the leadership of Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi, "is the genuine Islamic resistance to Khomeyni and it will continue its ideological struggle until the Tehran regime is overthrown."

"We have gathered popular support and the number of our supporters have risen by 400 per cent" in the past years, Mr. Ravingadi told the *JORDAN TIMES* and *AL-RA'Y* in an interview in Amman.

Mr. Ravingadi is here to attend a symposium on means to end the five-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war. The symposium, entitled "No-For-War, Yes-For-Peace," opens here today under Royal patronage.

Referring to the course of the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Ravingadi said Iranian forces "have been dealt severe blows by the Iraqis" and that "a further radical change in the interest of the Iranian opposition to Khomeyni" was in the offing.

He dismissed suggestions that the Iranian movement was allied with "foreign powers" and said the movement "depends mainly on material and moral support from active Iranian followers within and outside Iran."

In reply to a question on the Iranian resistance movement's relations with Iraq and Arab countries supporting Iraq, Mr. Ravingadi said: "Although our relations with the international community are not so strong we enjoy good ties with Iraq and Jordan and we hope to establish similar relations with Saudi Arabia."

"All Islamic countries are our brothers," he added.

"Our good relations with Iraq were underlined when Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Mr. Rajavi in Paris in 1982 and drew up a peace plan to end the Iran-Iraq war," he said. "The plan was approved by the Iraqi policy-makers as a basis for establishing peace between Iran and Iraq."

Mr. Ravingadi dismissed reports that the Iranian resistance movement's relations with the Soviet Union were bad but did not elaborate. However, he said, "we seek to establish good relations with all countries after toppling the Khomeyni regime."

"Our political activity covers a very broad range, particularly in Europe," he said. "We owe the strength of our movement to the large number of our supporters."

Replying to further questions, the Iranian resistance leader said: "All enemies of Khomeyni are our friends."

Commenting on the support that his movement enjoys within Iran, Mr. Ravingadi said "more than 90 per cent of the Iranian population are behind us and more than 40 per cent of the Iranian Army support us."

He said the Khomeyni regime executed 50,000 opponents and jailed 140,000 people since it took power in 1979. He said he expected a further escalation in internal Iranian opposition to the revolutionary regime as a result of continued oppression.

The symposium which opens here today is organised by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO). ALO Director General al-Hashimi al-Banani said on Monday the selection of Amman as the venue for the symposium was not by chance or an offhand selection. "Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has been a pioneer in adopting all initiatives that contribute to healing the rift among brothers either in the Arab World or at the Islamic level," Mr. al-Banani said.

Tudeh-Turkish Communist Party Statement Noted

TA252035 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Unattributed commentary: "Progressive Forces Condemn the Islamic Regime's Warmongering Policy"]

[Text] According to *NAMEH-YE MARDOM*, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party, a meeting was held some time ago between delegations of the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party. A joint statement was issued at the conclusion of the talks between these two fraternal parties. We now bring to the attention of our dear compatriots prominent parts of this statement.

At the beginning of the joint statement, which is devoted to Iran's domestic situation, the two parties' delegations condemned the Khomeyni regime's reactionary and oppressive policy. The Turkish Communist Party delegation expressed its total support for the heroic struggle of Iranian communists and other patriotic forces to overthrow Iran's theocratic regime and establish a national democratic government that adheres to the principles of democracy, national independence, and social justice.

The Iranian Tudeh party and the Turkish Communist Party delegations regarded the devastating Iran-Iraq war as being totally counter to the interests of the two countries in conflict and considered it a war that is only to the benefit of imperialism and regional reaction. The two sides declared that the solution of differences between Iran and Iraq is possible only through peaceful and direct talks between the two governments. The representatives of the said parties justly believe that the first step toward this end is the declaration of an immediate cease-fire on the entire war fronts. The Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party delegations agreed that Turkey's present regime is a fascist regime that implements a repressive, antinational, and anticommunist policy which violates the most elementary rights and interests of the Turkish people. The joint statement says that Turkey's present government is playing the role of imperialism's fifth column in its relations with Iran. The Turkish Government is striving to mend the damaged bridges between the Islamic Republic and its own allies in NATO. The Iranian Government, in its turn, is welcoming these efforts and is moving toward this same path.

The delegations of the two fraternal parties, namely the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party, reviewed the Kurdish people's struggles for the achievement of their national rights, and while stating that they explicitly adhere to the Marxist-Leninist principle of the right of nations to determine their destiny, declared that they condemn the antidemocratic policy of the present leaders of Iran, Turkey, and Iraq with regard to the Kurdish people and fully support the Kurdish people's struggle for the achievement of their national rights. The Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party delegations then dealt with international problems and considered the struggle for peace as the most sublime duty of progressive and revolutionary forces throughout the world. They expressed their total support for the proposals of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the gradual reduction of nuclear arsenals and their complete extermination by the year 2000. The two parties' representatives also condemned the Reagan government's policy in connection with the militarization of outer space.

At the conclusion of the joint statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party said: The United Nations has unanimously declared 1986 as the Year of Peace. The Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party announce their resolute decision to participate actively in this struggle, and are ready to carry out their duty for the attainment of this most sublime and important cause of our era, namely the cause of peace. These were parts of the joint statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party and the Turkish Communist Party delegations that was published a while ago in *NAMEH-YE MARDOM*, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party. Our homeland's people are once again witnessing that despite all futile attempts and savage onslaughts by rulers of the Islamic regime, the Iranian Tudeh Party — the party of our homeland's working class — is continuing its struggles for freedom, independence, social justice, and for the prosperity and happiness of our homeland's toilers. There should be no doubt that the Iranian Tudeh Party, together with other progressive and patriotic forces, will fulfill its historic role in the struggles of our homeland's people for the establishment of a national democratic government.